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                                                USIB-D-5.1/9
                                                IHC-D-126/9
                                                3 October 1969

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO._____

Data Element and Code Standardization for
Intelligence and Intelligence Information

(Approved - _____)

Pursuant to the provisions of NSCID No. 1 (New Series, Revised
4 March 1964), paragraph 3.b. (2), a policy promoting data elements
and code standards for intelligence and intelligence information is
hereby established.

Definitions

    1. This Directive specifically applies to, but is not necessarily
limited to, National Intelligence and Interdepartmental Intelligence as
defined in NSCID No. 1, paragraphs 4.a. and 4.c. respectively.

    2. The definitions of data element, data code, general and
program standards are: 1/

        (a) A data element is a grouping of informational units
which has a unique meaning based on a natural or assigned
relationship and subcategories (data items) of distinct units
or values. For example, "month" is a data element whose data
items are "January", "February", "March", etc.

        (b) A data code is a number, letter, symbol or any combina-
tion thereof used to represent a data element or a data item.

        (c) Federal program standards are "for use in particular
related programs concerning more than one agency. Examples are
data elements and codes usually limited to use in...unique
systems. In these cases, the same source data often are used by
several agencies, and aggregation and exchange of information on
a program basis are the rule."

        (d) Federal general standards are "for general use by
most agencies in connection with an extensive number and variety
of related or unrelated data systems and programs".

1/ Defined in the Bureau of Budget Circular No. A-86, 30 September 1967.
    Subject: "Standardization of Data Elements and Codes in Data Systems".

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3. For the purpose of this Directive, Intelligence falls into the federal program standards area. Intelligence standards fall within and are restricted by the foregoing definitions.

Policy

4. The policy established hereby is to promote the use of standards in the exchange of intelligence and intelligence information to achieve an optimum level of compatibility among information handling systems in the USIB community.

Responsibility

5. The Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC)$\underline{2/}$ will establish methods and procedures for developing and maintaining data elements, data codes, and related features to be used in the intelligence community. The development of a U. S. Intelligence Standards Program should:

(a) be within the framework of the standards program for the executive branch of the government;

(b) be compatible with the missions, directives, and agreements under which member agencies must operate; and

(c) support, and be supported by the data standardization programs of member agencies.

Consideration should be given to the many functional and economic aspects of establishing, promulgating, and implementing standards.

Richard Helms
Director of Central Intelligence

2/ DCID No. 1/4 (New Series), effective 4 April 1968

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